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## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

### COMMUNIST ROADNET IN THE LAOS PANHANDLE



CIA/BI GM 66-4  
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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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#### COMMUNIST ROADNET IN THE LAOS PANHANDLE.\*

Communist movement of men and supplies overland from North Vietnam to combat areas in South Vietnam. This movement was carried on through a network of roads constructed in the panhandle of Laos. The network comprises the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which is a road system that bypasses the extremely mountainous terrain, an obstructing direct movement into South Vietnam. This trail, which was developed by the Vietnamese, was used by the Communists since the mid 1950's to move their forces and supplies. It has now been expanded and has been successfully established a continuous north-south road system that extends from the coast of North Vietnam about 300 miles to the vicinity of the Cambodian border. This enlarged network, which is now well developed, indicates that the Communists force in South Vietnam.

16 extend eastward toward the South Vietnam border from this north-south overall trunk route. Route 110, a new road that extends from Cambodia into Laos, connects with the southern end of Route 06.

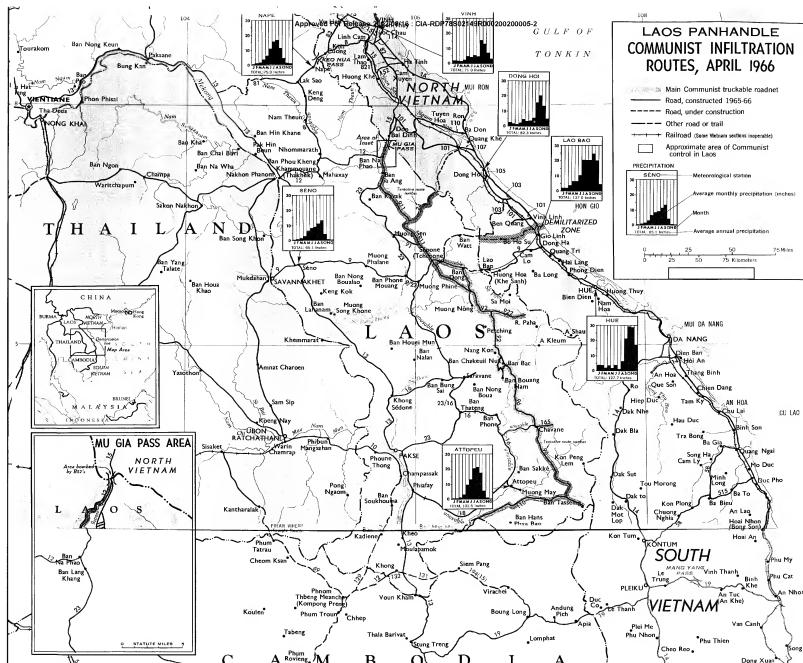


FIGURE 1. MU GIA PASS, NORTH VIETNAM, THROUGH WHICH ROUTE 15 ENTERS LAOS. A segment of Route 15 can be seen in left middleground. The target of B-52 bombing was the gap area shown in background. The military camp buildings in foreground have been severely damaged or destroyed since this photo-

graph was taken in 1968.

FIGURE 3. CLOSUP OF UNANCHORED ASBESTOS BOARD, PART OF ROUTE 911 ABOUT 10 MILES SOUTHEAST OF JUNCTION OF ROUTES 911 AND 23. The board surface will probably become dislodged during the winter rainy season, and log will probably be used for confirming in an effort to keep the road open to trucks. Back aggregate

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